

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5062

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, AORG, FR
SUBJ: UN RESTRUCTURING: U.S./FRENCH CONSULTATIONS

REF: A.PARIS 34398 (NOTAL), B. USUN 4920 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE LECOMPT COMMENT IN
REFTEL A THAT USUN AND FRENCH MISSIONS "NOW APPEAR TO BE PUR-
SUING SEPARATE OBJECTIVES". BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, WE HAVE
MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE
FRENCH MISSION AT BOTH THE AMBASSADORIAL AND WORKING LEVELS,
AND HAVE CONSULTED WITH THEM AT EVERY STEP IN THIS STILL
EVOLVING PROCESS. THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN
APPROACH THAT HAS PERSISTED THROUGHOUT--THE FRENCH BASICALLY
DO NOT WANT TO ESTABLISH A HIGH LEVEL POSITION IN THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL SECTORS WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY ENDANGER THE AUTH-
ORITY OF THE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ESA (TRADITIONALLY
THE FRENCH POSITION); WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SUC POSITION BOTH AS A PART OF THE
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RESTRUCTURING PACKAGE BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO MEET OUR
INTERESTS FOR IMPROVED LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION IN THIS
SECTOR. OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS HERE IN NEW YORK HAVE BEEN
TO FIND A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MEET THE FRENCH CONCERNS,
SERVE OUR INTERESTS, AND BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO THE TWO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY

LECOMPT:

(A) WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ADVISED THE FRENCH THAT WE DO NOT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE TITLE OF THE POSITION; RATHER OUR CONCERN IS WITH THE MANDATE. INTERESTINGLY, SYG WALDHEIM HIMSELF ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS AS REPORTED REFTEL B. THE FRENCH HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN A HARD STAND THAT THE POSITION SHOULD BE DESIGNATED "SPECIAL ASSISTANT" TO THE SYG AND THAT IT BE CLEARLY AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL. (EARLIER THEY HAD ASKED US TO CHANGE OUR NON-PAPER TO REFER TO A DIRECTOR GENERAL RATHER THAN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL. WE HONESTLY DOUBT THAT SUCH A DESIGNATION WOULD PERMIT THE KIND OF SYSTEMWIDE COORDINATION WHICH WE ENVISAGE. THE FRENCH HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SELL THIS CONCEPT TO THE EC-9. AND THE G-77 HAVE ALREADY SERVED NOTICE THAT SUCH A DESIGNATION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY PUBLIC POSITION WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE FRENCH EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OF SUCH A DESIGNATION.

(B) GIVEN THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY, WE DOUBT THAT ALL OF THE FUNCTIONS ENUMERATED IN SECTION VIII SUB-PARAGRAPH 3(F) OF THE DADZIE TEXT WILL BE ALLOCATED TO ESA. THESE FUNCTIONS REPRESENT A MIXTURE OF OPERATIONAL AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES. IN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH, WE HAD SOUGHT A FORMULA WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN A LINK BETWEEN THE ESSENTIALLY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF ESA, AND THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF OTC AND, IN PARTICULAR, LEAVE STATISTICAL

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SERVICES IN ESA. THE ONLY WAY WE SEE OF GETTING AROUND THIS IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO MPERMIT THE SYG TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE FUNCTIONS BETWEEN ESA AND OTC. EARLIER, THE EC-9 INDICATED THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT THIS APPROACH IF THE G-77 WOULD. THE ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY DISCUSSED RECENTLY AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE VARIOUS PARTIES STAND NOW.

3. IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH LECOMPT AND OTHER QUAI OFFICIALS, USUN SUGGESTS THAT YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE THE POINT THAT WE HAVE MADE AND ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE FRENCH CONCERNS AND THAT EVEN ON POINTS OF RELATIVE DISAGREEMENT WE HAVE TAKEN NO PUBLIC ACTION TO UNDERMINE FRENCH EFFORTS.

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